



State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
2011 PRONGHORN ANTELOPE
BIG VALLEY APPRENTICE HUNT
(ZONE 5 EITHER-SEX)
www.dfg.ca.gov



General Information: Congratulations on being drawn for the Big Valley Apprentice hunt! This hunt was formerly the Ash Creek Junior Pronghorn Antelope Hunt. The hunt boundaries are expanded and the season extended to coincide with the Zone 5 Big Valley hunt. This information has been prepared to assist apprentice hunters and their adult chaperons hunting antelope in Zone 5. Zone 5 is located in portions of Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, and Siskiyou Counties. Tagholders wishing to hunt the Ash Creek Wildlife Area may contact the Ash Creek Wildlife Area by telephone at (530) 294-5824, and must attend an orientation meeting before hunting. Only persons possessing valid junior hunting licenses and apprentice license tags may hunt during the apprentice pronghorn antelope hunt season in the Ash Creek Wildlife Area. Tagholders must be **accompanied** by a nonhunting licensed **adult chaperon 18 years of age or older** while hunting.

Regulations: Laws and regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter who knows the laws and regulations can enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the regulations contained in the Hunting Regulations for Mammals and Furbearers. Visit the above website address for specific zone regulations (hunt zone map, description, and harvest success information can also be viewed at this address). Remember you must obtain written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced

Please remember that all hunters MUST return tag report cards to the Department within one week after the close of the pronghorn antelope season REGARDLESS of whether a pronghorn antelope was taken.

Public Land: Zone 5 contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Public lands within the zone are administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS), Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5381 and Modoc National Forest, 800 W 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-5811 and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), 355 Hemsted Road, Redding, CA 96002, (530) 224-2100 and 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5381.

Access: There are extensive tracts of public land with excellent access in Zone 5. Primary roadways in Zone 5 are State Route 139 (eastern Zone 5), State Route 299 (central Zone 5) and State Route 89 (western Zone 5). Many County, USFS, and BLM roads branch off of these primary roadways providing excellent access to public lands.

Maps: The most comprehensive map of the area is the BLM surface management maps. The BLM surface management maps for Zone 5 are the Alturas, Eagle Lake, and McArthur maps. United States Geological Service (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially to depict topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps are usually available at backpacking and engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly in Menlo Park, CA at (650) 853-8300. USGS maps are also available online at usgs.gov. USFS maps are available locally at most USFS offices; by contacting the USFS Pacific Southwest Regional Office at: 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592 (707-562-8737); or ordered by phone (406-329-3024), fax (406-329-3030), mail at USDA Forest Service, National Forest Store, P.O. Box 8268, Missoula, MT 59807, or on-line at <http://www.nationalforeststore.com/>. BLM maps are also available at all BLM offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4400; or at 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-0456.

Travel Tips: Zone 5 covers a large geographical area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged. As in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area.

Weather: The weather in this region is highly variable so BE PREPARED. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but summer thunder storms are not uncommon. Thunder storms can make roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel.

Camping: There are numerous designated campgrounds within Zone 5. The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season, special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a **fire permit** from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas. Please **DO NOT CAMP** at springs or other water sources that are important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining at artificial wildlife water sources (guzzlers) can be a Fish and Game violation. **YOU** can pack water-- animals can't!

Where to look for Antelope: Pronghorn antelope use open areas with little cover. They are usually found in flat to rolling country, and not too far from water. Antelope run to gain distance from perceived threats. Unlike deer, they do not seek close hiding cover. When scouting or hunting antelope, keep the sun at your back while it is low in the sky (morning or evening). Pronghorn antelope are usually very easy to see at distances of a mile or more under good light conditions. Because pronghorn antelope are creatures of open habitats, you can hunt them all day. However, you run the risk of exhausting yourself. Try to pace yourself and concentrate hunting mornings and evenings. Stalking can be a long process, so remember to bring gloves, knee and elbow padding to protect yourself from sharp rocks. **Binoculars** and **spotting scopes** can be a great asset for observing antelope at long distances. Popular areas to look for pronghorn antelope are Fox Mountain, Big Valley, Pitville Flats, Beaver Creek, Bald Mountain, and Dixie Valley. Scouting other areas can help you locate an out-of-the-way site that may have less hunter pressure and fit your style of hunting.

Care of Meat: Conditions during the antelope hunting season can be quite warm. It is critical you are prepared to properly care for the meat if you harvest an animal. You should be prepared to skin and quarter or de-bone your antelope immediately after it is tagged. The meat should be hung in flyproof breathable sacks in the shade until you pack it out. If you are hunting by yourself, you will need, at minimum, game sacks, plenty of rope, a game hoist, a knife, a knife sharpener, and a pack frame. A meat saw or hatchet and a tarp would also likely be helpful.

Additional Information: If you have any questions regarding this hunt, for Lassen County please contact Mr. Brian Ehler at (530) 254-6808. For Modoc County, Mr. Richard Shinn at (530) 233-3581. Additional information can also be found on the Department's web site at:
<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/wildlife/hunting/pronghorn/>

Again, congratulations and we hope you have an enjoyable hunt.